

KENDALL COUNTY
Historic Preservation Commission
Historic Preservation Organization Meeting
The Homestead 1854
611 E. Main Street
Plano, IL 60545
6:00 p.m.
August 19, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jeff Wehrli called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Jeff Wehrli (Chairman) and Marty Shanahan

Absent: Eric Bernacki, Elizabeth Flowers and Kristine Heiman

Also Present: Matt Asselmeier, Wanda A. Rolf, Dawn Honrud, and Sean Honrud.

There was a lack of a quorum.

NEW BUSINESS

Tour of The Homestead 1854

Attendees toured the property. Dawn Honrud current owner of The Homestead 1854, spoke about the history of The Homestead 1854.

Built in 1854 by Lewis Seward, the house provides modern amenities as well as an historic atmosphere. The house is set on two (2) acres of land.

Chairman Wehrli asked Ms. Honrud how she and her husband ended up owning the house. Ms. Honrud stated that for the past ten (10) years, both she and her husband owned a mobile bartending company and worked at the Homestead 1854 during previous functions. Mr. and Ms. Honrud knew of the owners and vice versa. Ms. Honrud was looking for a venue to purchase. Once the previous owners decided they wanted to move out of the area, they reached out to Ms. Honrud and her husband. They have owned The Homestead 1854 since January 2024.

Mr. Asselmeier asked Ms. Honrud if she explored the house. Ms. Honrud stated she has researched and explored the house.

Chairman Wehrli asked Ms. Honrud if the house had the original floor plan. Ms. Honrud stated most of the house had the original floor plan except all the closets upstairs were converted into bathrooms for the bed and breakfast portion of the house.

Mr. Asselmeier asked Ms. Honrud if she found any historic dates around the house. Ms. Honrud stated she has photos dating back to 1893. Mr. Asselmeier also asked Ms. Honrud about the wallpaper. Ms. Honrud said that the walls throughout the house were hand painted by previous owners whose original business was interior design. The garden level walls were painted by Elaina, a child of one the owners, she had two (2) art studios in the house. Ms. Honrud said that the owner stated in the contract that the walls were not to be painted over in the garden level, so they placed panels over the paintings.

Mr. Asselmeier asked Ms. Honrud if the house had indoor plumbing, outhouses, or water closets. Ms. Honrud said that she believes they had water closets. Mr. Asselmeier asked if there were servants quarters. Ms. Honrud stated there were servant's quarters downstairs.

Attendees proceeded to tour the upstairs bed and breakfast portion of The Homestead 1854 where there is a bridal suite, for brides to get ready for their wedding day.

Mr. Asselmeier asked if there were any current renovations done to the house. Ms. Honrud stated that the house was bought as is, and there have not been any major renovations.

The servants had their own quarters downstairs with a kitchen and ice box.

There is a wine cellar under the garden level. The attendees viewed the wine cellar.

Chairman Wehrli observed the unique siding on the house and that type of siding has not been used in many years.

Attendees went outside to view the grounds. There is a nine hundred (900) square foot chapel on the grounds that can be used for a wedding ceremony or meeting space. The Timber Tent is a structure constructed in 2017 that can be used for al fresco ceremonies or event dinners.

The dining room is an elegant space for guests to gather and enjoy their meal. They may walk through the library, foyer, or bar room to mingle with other guests.

Mr. Asselmeier asked if there were any horse stoops. Ms. Honrud said there were quite a few carriage stones that were used to assist people on and off their horses or buggies.

The Labyrinth is a winding path that can be used for outdoor ceremonies or for meetings and retreats. With its paved path surrounded by a hedge maze, labyrinths' have been associated with spirituality.

During the cooler weather there is a fire pit in which the guests may warm up and relax in front of a crackling fire.

People wander onto the grounds as if it were a park with their pets, but soon find out it's for private events.

Chairman Wehrli thanked Ms. Honrud for allowing the attendees to tour the house and grounds of The Homestead 1854.

The Homestead 1854 has been on the National Register of Historic Places since November 2003.

The gathering ended at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wanda A. Rolf
Administrative Assistant